

DPD's Expanded Public Safety Commitment: Protecting Denver's Community from Violent Extremism

Violent extremism continues to pose a threat to the public safety of our Denver residents. The 2010 Sheepskin Factory fire in Denver, the 2015 Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood shooting, and 2018 conviction of a local Sovereign Citizen leader for retaliation against judges and filing false documents are examples of violent extremist movements that have impacted our community. Such incidents prompted Mayor Hancock to commit Denver to the Strong Cities Network (SCN) in 2015 at the United Nations in New York City.

The SCN is the first ever global network of mayors, municipal-level policy makers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms. The network builds collaboration between mayors, political actors and frontline teams to tackle polarization, hate and violence in local communities in every major global region through community-centric approaches and action.

What is the DPD Countering Violent Extremism Program?

With a \$481,000 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Denver Police Department CVE program has five specific components with an underlying goal to strengthen community relationships, increase Denver resident familiarity and confidence in DPD, and equip law enforcement and civilians alike with the knowledge and tools needed to counter violent extremism:

Strengthen community relations through outreach and engagement with *all* Denver residents

Train more than 250 DPD officers on the Law Enforcement Briefing (LAB), which includes a data-driven course on violent extremism and a section on cross-cultural communication

Present the Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) to community groups and organizations, so that they may better understand violent extremism and the resources available in the community.

Partner with the Denver Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop and implement My City Academies on a regular basis and throughout the City and County of Denver to help residents better navigate city resources and services.

Partner with Goodwill Industries to train police officers to join community members as mentors to 8th grade students in 5 Denver Public Schools.

For more information or questions, please contact Leslie Mongin, Program Coordinator, at leslie.mongin@denvergov.org.